



false nettle

Boehmeria cylindrical

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

False nettle is a perennial herb with smooth stems. It may grow up to three feet tall. Lance-shaped leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. They have three main veins, are toothed, and may grow to three inches long. Many tiny, greenish-white flowers are crowded into slender spikes that grow from the leaf axils. Male flowers usually are located on separate plants from the female flowers. The single, dry, hard seeds are about one-tenth inch long. It does not have stinging hairs.

Natural History

False nettle grows in wet meadows, bottomland forests, marshes, and along streams. It flowers from June through September. It is common in the south-central and extreme eastern parts of the state and infrequent to rare elsewhere.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; natural lakes and prairie marshes; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; bottomland forests; wet prairies and fens

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

southern two-thirds of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.